



CITY OF RAPID CITY

RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA 57701-2724

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March 27, 2015

Ms. Paula N. Rubin
U.S. Department of Justice
Civil Rights Division
Disability Rights Section
1425 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20005

Re: City of Rapid City

Dear Ms. Rubin:

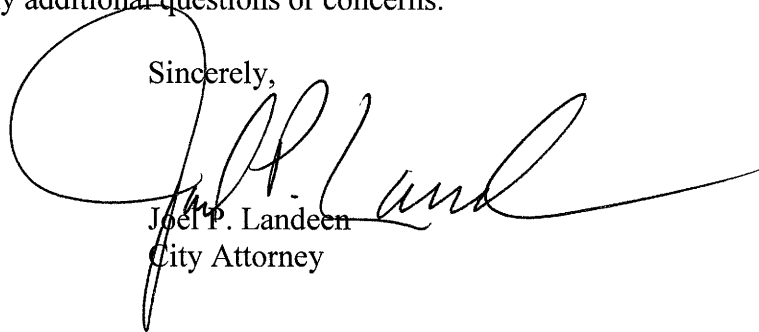
I am writing to update you on the status of the proposed renovation and expansion of the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center. On March 10th a city wide vote was held on the issuance of \$180 million dollars in sales tax obligation bonds to fund the project. The voters defeated this measure with approximately 40% of the voters favoring the plan and 60% opposing it. While the defeat of the proposed plan is a setback, I want to assure you that the City is still committed to addressing the accessibility issues for people with disabilities at the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center. One of the positive developments that has occurred through this process is virtually everyone in the community now understands that the accessibility issues need to be addressed and something needs to be done. Unfortunately, they did not believe the current proposal was the best way to do so.

Even though the proposal was defeated, the City is still moving forward with the corrections to the parking lots, restrooms and other areas of the facility that are outside of the Barnett Arena. Since these projects will be funded through the Civic Center's normal operating budget, there should be no delays in completing this work. As for the Barnett Arena, there was a meeting composed of citizens and stakeholders earlier this week in order to start discussing where we go from here and outline a process for developing a new plan a majority of the people in the community can support.

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The City understands its obligations under its agreement with the Dept. of Justice and is committed to coming up with a new plan that addresses the accessibility issues in the Barnett Arena in a manner and timeframe that is acceptable to everyone involved. I will continue to keep you informed of any developments as they occur. Please feel free to contact me should you have any additional questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joel P. Landeen", written over the typed name and title.

Joel P. Landeen
City Attorney

JPL/sll